Alert from Rochester Building Safety

Attention

Building, Electrical, Mechanical & Plumbing Contractors!

Bonding requirements for corrugated stainless steel tubing

As part of an interim settlement of a class action lawsuit brought against manufacturers of corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) used for gas piping, manufacturers of CSST have issued technical bulletins related to bonding of CSST. Manufacturers of CSST named in the lawsuit include: Titeflex Corporation, manufacturers of GasTite; Ward Manufacturing, manufacturers of WARDFLEX; OmegaFlex, Inc., manufacturers of TracPipe and TracPipe PS-II; and Parker Hannifin. Technical bulletins and information related to the class action lawsuit can be accessed online at www.pddocs.com/csst/updates.aspx#. .

Although similar, each manufacturer has developed their own requirements for bonding of CSST manufactured by their company. These requirements become part of the manufacturer's installation instructions and subsequently compliance is required by the State Mechanical Code.

Specific manufacturers of CSST may have requirements that differ from this summary and should be contacted, or their most recent information accessed, to ensure compliance with their specific requirements.

The bonding of CSST is electrical work and must be performed in accordance with electrical licensing laws, Minnesota Statutes 326.01 and 326.241 – 248 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 3800.

The bonding requirements specified by manufacturers that are in addition to those found in the National Electrical Code are enforceable under the State Mechanical Code. There is no separate electrical inspection required for this additional bonding and electrical inspection is performed as part of the inspection of other electrical work being performed on the premises.

The following is a summary of the general requirements:

1. CSST must be bonded to the grounding electrode system of the premises. This bonding requirement is in addition to the bonding requirement of section 250.104 (B) of the National Electrical Code and section 309 of the State Fuel Gas Code, which allow the equipment grounding conductor of the feeder or branch circuit to bond the gas piping at the supplied equipment.
2. The bonding connection must be made nearest the point of entrance of the gas piping to the premises.
3. Bonding connections must not be made to the tubing itself, rather to associated metal fittings, piping or manifolds that are directly connected to CSST.
4. Bonding connections must be made by using approved pipe grounding clamps or approved wire connectors in accordance with National Electrical Code section 250.70.
5. The bonding conductor should be as short as possible and bond the gas piping system directly to the premises grounding electrode system or electrical service equipment enclosures or raceways.
6. The size of the bonding conductor should be no smaller than 6 AWG copper.

The article above was printed in the State of Minnesota's Spring CCLD Newsletter. Please verify the specific installation requirements of the products that you are using.